

REMARKS

Claims 26, 27 and 30-45 were examined in the Office Action under reply and were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over U.S. Patent No. 3,596,660 to Melone ("Melone") (claims 39, 40 and 42-45) and U.S. Patent No. 6,440,096, to Lastovich et al. ("Lastovich") (claims 26, 27, 30, 31, 34 and 37-45). Claims 32, 33, 35 and 36 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent format to include all the limitations of the base and intervening claims.

Accordingly, claims 26, 27 and 40-42 have been cancelled. Claims 30 and 39 have been amended to incorporate recitations from allowed claims 35 and 36. Claim 39 has also been amended to incorporate recitations from now cancelled claims 40-42 and claim 44 has been amended to more closely track the language of independent claim 39 from which it depends. Thus, the method of claim 39 now includes the allowed system that is the subject of amended claim 30. All claims should therefore be allowable.

The foregoing amendments are made without prejudice, without intent to abandon any originally claimed subject matter, and without intent to acquiesce in any rejection of record. Applicant expressly reserves the right to file one or more continuing applications hereof containing the unamended claims.


Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments at this time as they place the application in condition for allowance. The amendments do not present new issues that require an additional search as the amendments have been made merely to incorporate subject matter from allowable dependent claims into the independent claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are patentable. Accordingly, allowance is believed to be in order and an early notification to that effect would be appreciated. If the Examiner notes any further matters which she believes may be expedited by a telephone interview, she is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (650) 493-3400.

Respectfully submitted,

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